

Research Dialogues

- Federico Malerba -

Financial Literacy of the Self-Employed: Evidence from the OECD Financial Literacy Surveys

Abstract

Using OECD/INFE 2023 data from 25 countries, this study compares financial literacy and its components between self-employed and wage-employed workers, controlling for individual characteristics and country fixed effects. Results show no higher overall financial literacy among the self-employed. While no systematic gap appears in advanced economies, self-employed individuals in emerging and developing economies display lower financial literacy, mainly due to weaker financial knowledge and behavior. Robustness analyses suggest that, in advanced economies, they may possess stronger entrepreneurial-specific financial competencies, though these do not translate into higher general financial literacy.

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h. 09.00 - 10.30

In person: Room 4096 (U7,
4th floor)

Online: Webex

